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Arthur C. Gee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.









BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1957.

To:       The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of  
          the Borough of Southwold.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1957.

The comparative table of statistics for the last five years which is reproduced later in this report, indicates that the small rise in population and birth rate recorded in the immediate post war years has now subsided and both population and birth rate are back to a stable level. The birth rate is considerably below the comparative figure for England and Wales, as one would expect in a Borough of Southwold's characteristics. The death rate is also below the national figure; a feature which should give satisfaction to the older residents.

The primary cause of death is disease of heart. Only one death from cancer of the lung is recorded, although the number of deaths from other forms of cancer, come second to that from heart disease.

Both measles and pneumonia were more prevalent than during previous years, the latter no doubt being associated with the epidemic of influenza which characterised last winter. Only one case of poliomyelitis occurred, though this was unfortunately fatal. Immunisation against poliomyelitis was continued throughout the year, but supplies of vaccine were limited and a great deal of progress was, therefore, not possible.

I am pleased to be able to report that the water supply of the Borough has been adequate and of a wholesome quality throughout the year. Some consideration was given during the year to plans for improving the sewage disposal, but this project is one which will need very careful consideration in future, in order that a satisfactory solution to the various problems can be found.

I would refer members to the Public Health Inspectors report for details of the sanitary work done within the Borough during







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the year and to work in relation to the supervision of food supplies. We unfortunately had three cases of food poisoning during the year - an unusual event - which shows that constant vigilance is necessary to prevent disease of this type.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Registrar-General's estimated population (mid 1957) ..... 2400  
 Number of inhabited houses as at 31st. December, 1957 ..... 1273  
 Rateable Value as at 31st. December, 1957 ..... £38,922

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	5	11	16
	Illegitimate	3	1	4
		<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>

	<u>Southwold</u>	<u>Comparative figure for England &amp; Wales.</u>
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1957	8.3 (Crude) 12.6 (Adjusted)	16.1
STILL BIRTHS	Nil.	
DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1957	17.5 (Crude) 10.7 (Adjusted)	11.5
DEATHS OF INFANTS under ONE year of age	Nil.	





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CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1) Acute poliomyelitis	-	1	1
2) Malignant neoplasm, lung	1	-	1
3) Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
4) Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	1	5
5) Diabetes	-	1	1
6) Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	3	6
7) Coronary disease angina	6	5	11
8) Other heart disease	1	4	5
9) Other circulatory disease	-	1	1
10) Pneumonia	-	1	1
11) Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
12) Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
13) Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2	3
14) All other accidents	-	1	1
15) Suicide	1	1	2
	<u>20</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>42</u>

COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Population	2400	2410	2440	2450	2407
Births	20	27	26	20	30
Birth rate per 1,000 (Crude)	8.3	11.2	10.5	12.5	12.5
(Adjusted)	12.6	17.0	15.9	-	-
Deaths	42	36	39	38	32
Death rate per 1,000 (Crude)	17.5	14.9	15.9	8.9	13.9
(Adjusted)	10.7	9.3	9.2	-	-







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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, with a comparison of previous years:

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Measles	12	1	8
Pneumonia	11	8	5
Whooping Cough	3	1	4
Dysentery	-	1	-
Tuberculosis	1	3	1
Scarlet Fever	1	2	-
Food Poisoning	3	-	-
Poliomyelitis	1	1	-

HOME HELP SERVICE.

Two cases of chronically sick persons and five old people were provided with Home Help service during the year, a total of 383 hours of time being devoted to them. There are 3 home helps available for service in the Borough. A shortage of home helps in the Southwold area still prevails at the present time.

HOME NURSING.

A considerable amount of Home Nursing is required within the Borough, some 1489 visits having been made to residents by the District Nurse. The total number of cases attended was 84, of which 41 were over the age of 65 years. The District Nurse/Midwife for Southwold is Mrs. R. Rainbird.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, with a comparison of previous years.

	1937	1936	1935
Measles	12	1	8
Influenza	11	8	5
Whooping Cough	3	1	4
Diphtheria	-	1	1
Tuberculosis	1	3	1
Couplet Fever	1	2	1
Food Poisoning	3	-	1
Polio-myelitis	1	1	1

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Two cases of diphtheria were notified during the year, one in a child of five and one in a child of three. There were no cases of whooping cough, measles, or influenza. A shortage of home helps in the Northwold area still prevails at the present time.

HOME NURSING.

A considerable amount of home nursing is required within the borough, some 1483 visits having been made to residents by the District Nurses. The total number of cases attended was 54, of which 41 were over the age of 65 years. The District Nurse/Midwife for Southwold is Mrs. H. R. R. R.



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TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>MALES</u>		<u>FEMALES</u>		
	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Number of cases on the Register at 31st. December, 1956	5	-	7	1	13
Number of cases added during the year	1	-	-	-	1
Number of cases removed during the year	-	-	1	-	1
Number of cases on the Register at 31st. December, 1957	6	-	6	1	13

Cases Added to the Register.

New notifications = 1  
Inward transfers = -

Total     1

Cases Removed from the Register.

Recovered = 1  
Died = -  
Removed to other areas = -

1

Cases on the Register, according to age and sex at 31st. Dec. 1957.

<u>Age Group.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Under 5 years	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 to 24 years	-	2	2
25 - 44 years	1	2	3
45 - 64 years	5	2	7
65 years and over	-	1	1
Age unknown	-	-	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>13</u>







BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of  
the Borough of Southwold.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the Borough and the work done during the year 1957.

WATER SUPPLY.

A wholesome and sufficient supply of water for all requirements has been maintained throughout the year by the Southwold Waterworks Company Limited. Samples taken during the year have been satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The main sewerage scheme on the whole has worked satisfactorily. During the year, however, one serious case of flooding took place and steps have been taken to remedy this trouble. Major works are necessary at the sewage works to provide an innocuous effluent.

All drains are examined before being covered in and smoke or water tests applied where applicable.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

House refuse collection is carried out by contract, and the present contractors Messrs. May Bros. have carried out their duties with every satisfaction.

All house refuse is tipped and kept under control at our tip situated near the Gasometer works.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1957 (including Dwellinghouses).

During the year 250 premises were visited of which 134 were dwellinghouses and 116 various other premises.







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In the course of these inspections 98 defects or nuisances were found and 94 were abated. To secure the abatement of these defects and nuisances 10 informal notices were served upon the owners or agents concerned, in addition to personal interviews by the Public Health Inspector.

SHOP ACT, 1950: SECTION 38.

There are 101 shops in the district which are visited periodically, and there have been no contraventions.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Number of factory chimneys in the district	2
" " observations taken	10
" " legal proceedings taken	0

The emission of dark smoke was excessive in the case of one particular chimney and gave rise to many complaints. However, the plant at those premises was being re-organised and removed; at the end of the year the work was in progress.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There have been no contraventions of the Factory Act, 1937.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection.

No slaughtering takes place within the district, but the Public Health Inspector assists the Lothingland Rural District Council by inspecting all animals slaughtered at a slaughterhouse situated at Reydon.

Other Foods Inspection.

The following tinned and other foods were inspected, condemned and destroyed, being unfit for human consumption:-

Corned Beef	1 tin	6 lbs.
Shoulder Ham	15 tins	162 lbs. 8 ozs.
Peaches	1 tin	5 lbs.
		<hr/>
		173 lbs. 8 ozs.
		<hr/>







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Food Premises.

No. of premises inspected	47
No. of inspections made	73
No. of premises found unsatisfactory	0

No. of Premises registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream - Manufacture	0
Ice Cream - Storage or sale only	12
Sausages, preserved foods, etc.	4

DAIRIES AND RETAIL PURVEYORS OF MILK.

There are two local dairies which are periodically inspected and are kept under good conditions.

Supplementary licences for sale of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milks respectively were issued, also 3 Dealers licences authorising the use of the Special Designations (3) Tuberculin Tested, and (2) Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS AND BAKERIES.

These have been found to be satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL - PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Prevalence of Rats and Mice.

Type of Property.	Total.	Notified by Occupier	Other -wise.	Reco- ded.	Rats Major.	Rats Minor.	Mice Only
Local Authority	3	-	3	3	2	1	-
Dwellinghouses	1003	98	316	81	-	81	-
Business	273	4	89	2	-	2	-
Agricultural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	1279	102	408	86	2	84	-





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Measures of Control by Local Authority.

Type of Property.	Number Inspected.	Number of Inspections.	Number of Notices Served, Section 4.	
			Treatments.	Works.
Local Authority	3	15	0	0
Dwellinghouses	314	375	0	0
Business	91	91	0	0
Agricultural	0	0	0	0
	408	481	0	0

Type of Property.	Number of Treatments carried out By arrange-ment with owner.		Under Section 5 (1)		Block treatment of proper-ties in different occup-ancies under Sect. 6 (1) or by informal arrangements. No. of Surface Asscd. Sewers.		
	Rats.	Mice only.	Rats.	Mice only.	Blocks.	No. of separate occupancies.	No. of manholes treated.
Local Authority	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dwellinghouses	81	0	0	0	2	0	0
Business	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agricultural	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	89	0	0	0	2	0	0

In addition two maintenance treatments of the sewers in the District involving the baiting and poisoning of approximately 49 manholes were carried out with much success.

HOUSING.

New Houses.

No. of new houses erected by Local Authority	Nil.
No. of new houses erected by private enterprise	7





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Improvement Grants.

No. of Improvement Grants approved during the year 9.

Disinfection, &c.

No. of Premises disinfected 2.

No. of Premises disinfested 3.

G.OAKES.

Public Health Inspector.

November, 1958.









